



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** July 12, 2005

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

**SUBJECT:** United States Fish and Wildlife Service Grant Award

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council:

- A. Authorize the Acting Parks and Recreation Director to enter into an agreement with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to receive a Partners For Fish and Wildlife Program grant award of \$25,000 for the Arroyo Burro Estuary Restoration project; and
- B. Increase appropriations and estimated revenues by \$25,000 in the Fiscal Year 2006 Creeks Division Capital Fund for the Arroyo Burro Estuary Restoration project.

### DISCUSSION:

The Arroyo Burro Estuary Restoration project will improve both aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat, expand wetlands, increase plant diversity, and improve water quality. The project will also improve pedestrian access between Arroyo Burro Beach County Park and the Douglas Family Preserve, and provide opportunities for educating the public concerning water quality and wildlife habitat. In addition, the project will be the first "daylighting" project on the South Coast. "Daylighting" is a term used to describe projects which expose creeks that have been buried in underground culverts, by removing the culverts and directing the water through the historic creek channel. Project construction is scheduled to begin in June 2006 and will be completed by December 2006.

In April 2005, the Creeks Division applied for a \$25,000 grant from the USFWS through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (Program). The Program is designed to assist public and private landowners with restoration of habitat for federally endangered species and migratory birds. The grant funds awarded to the Creeks Division will be utilized for fish migration and estuary wetland habitat expansion improvements associated with the Arroyo Burro Estuary Restoration project. The improvements will benefit the Federally Endangered Southern Steelhead Trout and the Federally Endangered Tidewater Goby by expanding critical habitat and eliminating a block to upstream fish migration.

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REVIEWED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ Finance \_\_\_\_\_ Attorney

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**BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

The total estimated cost to construct the Arroyo Burro Estuary Restoration project is \$1,000,000. The USFWS grant funds will provide \$25,000 toward project construction. Additional grant funds for the project include \$12,930 from the County of Santa Barbara Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund and \$120,280 from the Federal government through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005. Other potential grant funds include a \$200,000 grant proposal to the California Department of Parks and Recreation Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF). Notification for award of the HCF grant is not expected until late summer 2005. Any project costs not covered by grants would be funded with Measure B funds. The Creeks Division will provide Council with updated budget information in spring 2006, prior to project construction.

**PREPARED BY:** Jill E. Zachary, Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager

**SUBMITTED BY:** Nancy L. Rapp, Acting Parks and Recreation Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office